

suffered from polio. He would take the train to Georgia to go down to Warm Springs to get the therapy of those warm springs, which then was the only mechanism of treating polio.

Today in Georgia, because of the CDC, we have a mechanism of eradicating polio. That is the type of evolution we want to see in health care not just for our country but for the world.

CDC is the best investment of American tax dollars we could possibly make. I support it wholeheartedly, and I thank Senator BROWN for his participation in the colloquy today.

I yield back the remainder of my time and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. I ask to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SYRIA

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam President, like many others, I am deeply disturbed by the current situation in Syria, the appalling atrocities, the tragic loss of life, the reported use of chemical weapons. This deserves the clear condemnation of the international community.

I am also concerned by the push for intervention in this war, by the rush to judgment for the United States to yet again become entangled in a civil war. The President has decided to send arms to the rebels to fight the government of the Bashar al-Asad. The full scope of this intervention is not yet clear, but this path is dangerous and unnecessary.

The Asad regime is cruel and corrupt. We can all agree on that point. Many of the groups fighting against him do not share our values and could be worse. They may pose long-term risks to us and our allies. Asad's enemies may very well be America's enemies. The fact is that we do not know. A number of experts, including our military brass, have sounded alarms warning that the options to intervene in Syria range from bad to worse and could prove damaging to America's strategic interests. By flooding Syria with weapons, we risk arming those who ultimately may seek to do us harm.

We have been down this road before. Recent history tells a cautionary tale. In the 1980s the United States supported a rebel insurgency to repel the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. Back then as now, many Members of Congress pushed for arming these rebels. The United States supplied weapons, intelligence, and training,

with the goal to defeat the Soviets in Afghanistan.

Our short-term victory had tragic consequences for the future. Radical members of the insurgency formed the Taliban regime, giving safe haven to terrorist training camps, providing material support to Osama bin Laden and his fledgling al-Qaida movement. Through state-sponsored terrorism in Afghanistan, al-Qaida thrived and perpetrated attacks on the USS *Cole* and the World Trade Center on 9/11. The aftermath has been more than a decade of war, with tragic loss of American lives and treasure.

This is history to learn from, not repeat, and yet many who advocated for previously disastrous Middle East interventions are leading the charge to arm groups we know little about and to declare war through air strikes on another Middle Eastern country.

What little we do know about the Syrian rebels is extremely disturbing. The opposition is fractured. Some are sympathetic to the enemies of the United States and our allies, including Israel and Turkey. There are reliable reports that some of the rebels even include Iraqi Sunni insurgents—the same groups who killed many U.S. troops and still target the current Iraqi Army and Government.

We know American law currently considers some of the rebel elements to be terrorist groups. The United States has designated one of the key opposition factions, the Nursa Front, as a terrorist organization for being an al-Qaida-affiliated group.

The Syrian opposition is very unorganized. They lack a chain of command, they are subject to deadly infighting, and if they are able to defeat Asad, they may turn on each other or worse the United States or our allies.

Simply put, once we have introduced arms, neither we nor their fighters may be able to guarantee control over them. Such weapons could end up in the hands of groups and people who do not represent our interests, possibly including terrorists who target the United States, our allies, such as Israel and Turkey, and the Iraqi Army and Government—an Iraq that we spent billions of dollars and thousands of American lives to establish.

Given this reality, those who are pushing for military intervention should answer three basic questions: Can arms be reasonably accounted for and kept out of the hands of terrorists and extremist groups? Can they assure us those arms will not become a threat to our regional allies and friends, including Israel, Turkey, and the Government of Iraq? And if the answer to the two previous questions is no, can they then explain why transferring our weapons to the rebels, whose members may themselves be affiliated with terrorist and extremist groups, is a sensible option for the American people? What national interest does this serve?

I do not believe those questions have been answered. I think the majority of

the American people agree. They do not see the justification of our intervention in this civil war. We need to slow down this clamor for more weapons to Syria and war and take a step back from this plunge into very muddy and dangerous waters.

Stopping radicalism and protecting our allies is of vital importance; however, we come to the ultimate question, one that has not been adequately answered: Will this hasty march to intervene in another Middle East conflict achieve these goals or will it ultimately harm the interests of the United States, leading to yet another bloody, costly, overseas conflict and, ironically, worsening the terrorist threat?

We should listen to the lessons of history. After over a decade of war overseas, now is not the time to arm an unorganized, unfamiliar, and unpredictable group of rebels. Now is not the time to rush headlong into another Middle Eastern civil war. The winds of war are blowing yet again, and we should be ever vigilant before we venture into another storm.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 744

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate resumes consideration of S. 744, which is the immigration bill, on Tuesday, June 18, the time until 12:30 p.m. and the time from 2:15 to 3 p.m. be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees for debate on the pending amendments listed below in the following order: Thune No. 1197, Landrieu No. 1222, Vitter No. 1228, and Tester No. 1198; that there be no second-degree amendments in order prior to the votes; that all the amendments be subject to a 60-affirmative-vote threshold; that there be 2 minutes equally divided between the votes; and that all after the first vote be 10-minute votes.

Madam President, I have spoken with my friend, the ranking member of the Judiciary Committee, the senior Senator from Iowa, because I wanted to add the Heller amendment; however, I understand the Republicans want to pick their own amendments. They do not want me picking them. I understand that, so I haven't included that one in the consent request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

BORDER SECURITY, ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY, AND IMMIGRATION MODERNIZATION ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 744, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 744) to provide for comprehensive immigration reform and for other purposes.